

ACT I] LADY WINDERMERE'S
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found out. Good-bye! [*Shakes hands with Duchess.*] And now—[*goes up stage*] Lady Windermere, good-bye. I may come to-night, mayn't I? Do let me come.
Lady Windermere. [*Standing up stage with Lord Darlington*^
Yes, certainly. But you are not to say foolish, insincere things to people.
Lord Darlington. [*Smiling.*] Ah! you are beginning to reform me. It is a dangerous thing to reform any one, Lady Windermere. [*Bows, and exit C.*]
Duchess of Berwick. [*Who has risen, goes C.*] What a charming wicked creature! I like him so much. I'm quite delighted he's gone! How sweet you're looking! Where do you get your gowns? And now I must tell you how sorry I am for you, dear Margaret. [*Crosses to sofa and sits with Lady Windermere.*] Agatha, darling!
Lady Agatha. Yes, mamma.

[*Rises.*]
Duchess of Berwick. Will you go and look over the photograph album that I sec there?
Lady Agatha. Yes, mamma. [*Goes to table up L.*]
Duchess of Berwick. Dear girl! She is so fond of photographs of Switzerland. Such a pure taste, I think. But I really am so sorry for you, Margaret.
Lady Windermere. [*Smiling.*] Why, Duchess?
Duchess of Berwick. Oh, on account of that horrid woman. She dresses so well, too, which makes it much worse, sets such a dreadful example. Augustus—you know my disreputable brother—such a trial to us all—well, Augustus is completely infatuated about her. It is quite scandalous, for she is absolutely inadmissible into society. Many a woman has a past, but I am told that she has at least a dozen, and that they all fit.
Lady Windermere. Whom are you talking about, Duchess?
Duchess of Berwick. About Mrs. Erlynne.
Lady Windermere. Mrs. Erlynne? I never heard of her, Duchess. And what has she to do with me?
Duchess of Berwick. My poor child! Agatha, darling!
Lady Agatha. Yes, mamma.
Duchess of Berwick. Will you go out on the terrace and look at the sunset?
Lady Agatha. Yes, mamma. [*Exit through window L.*]
Duchess of Berwick. Sweet girl! So devoted to sunsets! Shows such refinement of feeling, does it not? After all, there is nothing like Nature, is there?